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u3a Newsletter

News From U3A Guernsey

Issue 58

December

Membership - 1011



Dear Ian

Hi, well it's now time to celebrate Christmas again! Hopefully you all have plans and arrangements made. I've bought the cards just have to get round to writing them, if not done by the time you read this my friends and relations will be getting them in January. Time certainly passes quickly, I can't believe that I'm just about to complete another 12 Newsletters.

Anyway, enough from me. I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter and that some of the contents over the last year have inspired you to try something new. I hope you all have a happy Christmas and Health and Happiness for 2023.

Live, Laugh and Learn.

Ian Jowitt,
Newsletter Editor

Message from the Chair

December Newsletter

Monday 5th December - the date for our Drama group's pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three bears'. The audience rushed into the Vale Church hall for the starting time of 10.15am and they were certainly in fine voice, ready to boo the evil witch, cheer and sing where appropriate and they were rewarded with free refreshments.

Goldilocks was delightful, I couldn't get over Daddy bear's bowler hat and Mommy bear's apron, while baby bear was just sweet. Fish and Chips did a grand job of hunting down the goat. Yes, a golden goat - wasn't it a golden egg?! No, that's another panto. I didn't think there was a goat in the original Goldilocks but that's what you get when Margaret writes her own script with lots of local references and jokes. Everyone did a fabulous job of keeping to script and the Musical Director played her keyboard to maximum affect, especially to add tension and to ensure we had the usual contest in singing. The Drama Group entertained us for a good hour and brought a bit of festive cheer to the Vale Church Hall. Thank you to everyone in the group - it certainly was a good example of 'team' work.

Another group's work can be seen at the Town Church during December. The Creative Stitches Group have produced a beautiful hanging celebrating the 12 days of Christmas. Please do pop into the Church and have a look. Such creative work taking so many hours - well done ladies.

Those attending the Coffee Morning on 6th enjoyed a free mince pie and were offered the chance to be creative. Sue (Convenor for the Art for the Terrified Group) offered to sit at tables and support members making their very own Christmas Crackers. I have to say the ones I saw were lovely and didn't cost a fortune. Thanks Sue for sharing your talents with the members.

Mary and Gill have been busy with events - Thermomix demonstrations, Christmas Lights tour, Fab Lab workshops and I look forward to hearing what they have sorted for the New Year. We will be taking bookings at the January Coffee Morning for our 'Christmas Lunch' on the 23rd February at Les Cotils for those who can't book by Eventbrite. Please do look out for the newsflash in early January as this event will be popular.

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for next year. Please don't forget to do this as soon as you can, as Convenors of all groups will be checking that you have a new membership card in January. If you send money to our membership Secretary, please do include a stamped addressed envelope, as this helps to speed up the time spent on this task. The membership fee for u3a Guernsey covers the period from 1st January to 31st December and is currently £15

and this has not changed since the organisation started in Guernsey in 2015. The fee includes a Capitation Fee which goes to our national organisation The Third Age Trust, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover. If you took advantage of our £10 subsidy for our '1,000 member' events in October then you certainly got a lot out of your fee this year. The Committee are committed to ensuring you have value for money and I believe the members do have a great deal, so please do spread the word.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas.

Best wishes.

Live, Laugh and Learn,

Jane

Booking Events

Now that we have over 1,000 members, booking events can be done using Eventbrite. Instructions can be found on our website by clicking on this link:

https://mcusercontent.com/78a3ae6f48fcb731309468ff0/files/27e83b4d-b9d6-6238-980d-897593530b11/Eventbrite_Booking_Guide_2022_Sep_.pdf

Please only attend interest groups or u3a events if you are feeling well. Hopefully you are all regularly testing for Covid with a LFT and showing none of the symptoms.

Twelve Days of Christmas

u3a Creative Stitching Group

What: Embroidery

Where: Town Church

When: All of December

Every year the Creative Stitching Group members undertake a Christmas

embroidery. This year their theme is the Twelve Days of Christmas, which is now on display at the Town Church along with many other works by other charity groups.

But you will have no trouble spotting our stitchers' creation (to the right of the main entrance door) with "u3a" embroidered on it!

The display can be seen for the whole of December.

Juliet Strappini



u3a Panto bears all!

Once again, the u3a Drama Group put on a fabulous pantomime for the 6th successive year with their take on Goldilocks & the Three Bears. And bear it all, they did in terms of their usual political satire on life in Guernsey (written as always by the group's convenor, Margaret Moffatt).

As tradition demands, the Good Fairy and the Bad Witch, played by Jill Matthews and Wendy Clamp, dominated the show and to help them with the stamina involved, they were allowed the luxury of sitting down throughout the goings on in Le Guet woodlands and to read their way through the sketches and skits.

The audience, which completely filled the available seating, were soon laughing their heads off and shouting "PANTS!" every few minutes as repeated attempts were made to snaffle a pair of trousers left abandoned by Gertie the Goat on Le Guet headland (I'm not sure why - maybe it left a "bear behind"? Gedit!!). As well as comments on a number of deputies and the odd British Prime Minister (odd being the opera(tive) word. Gedit?), and even Mr Lansdown & "La Grandma" (a.k.a. La Grand Mare) nature trail aot it in the neck!

Our thanks go out to the cast:

Goldilocks.....Jane Fletcher

Gertie the Goat.....Lucy de Carteret

The Good Fairy of the Forest.....Jill Matthews

The Witch of the West.....Wendy Clamp

Fish.....Beryl Dempster

Chips.....Caroline Allaby

Belladonna.....Bronya Wallis

Daddy Bear.....Mary McDermott

Mummy Bear.....Joan Rouget

Baby Bear.....Joan Dorey

Music and musical movement director.....Susan Crossley

Director.....Margaret Moffatt

The bear costumes were made by Jane Pearson, with the whole event supported by many others including Mary Brogan and Margaret Lemon, who made it another Panto to remember with a huge smile on everyone's faces.

PS Your scribe was also roped in to make the "special effects" being an elasticated collapsible and re-mountable chair (what? You may well ask!) for Little Bear, so that it could be squished by Goldilocks umpteen times in rehearsals and then finally collapse in the final stage show.

Ian Daish





Wine Appreciation Christmas Lunch

Thirty six happy members of the u3a Wine Appreciation group attended the Christmas lunch at Driftwood for an excellent meal and a bit of Christmas Spirit. The event organised by Karen and Mark was appreciated by all present and as well as the food and wine everyone won a prize in the raffle, amazing!!

We are all looking forward to the group resuming in the New Year.



u3a Networks

I was recently appointed by the Committee to a newly created executive post of Vice-Chair/External Affairs, with responsibility for liaison with the u3a national office and the various u3a networks to which we belong. (Previously, this role was part of the Chair's Terms of Reference, but as Jane is always busy in her additional role as Interest Groups' Coordinator, it was decided to delegate the external affairs role to a vice-chair).

So, what do the networks do? Essentially, they provide an opportunity to talk to other u3as and to share experiences, swapping notes and ideas and generally learning from each other, just as we do as individual u3a members! They also organise training/information events for u3a committee members, potential committee members and group leaders/convenors, as well as work to increase the awareness of u3a in the community.

Our u3a organisation today comprises some 83 networks, which bring together the 1,000+ u3as that have been established across Britain.

Officially, Guernsey is part of the South Western Region Network (SWRN - <https://u3asites.org.uk/south-west/home>), comprising some 135 u3as covering Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly & the Channel Islands. In the good old days i.e. before Covid, it was difficult for us physically to attend SWRN meetings as getting to & from Exeter or Plymouth involved a three day trip. In any event, chatting with such a large number of u3as was never going to be easy, so we started looking elsewhere for a smaller, more accessible u3a network to join.


With regular and plentiful flights to Southampton airport, we soon found that getting involved with u3as in Hampshire area would make far more sense in that we could easily fly over and attend meetings on a day return basis. So, for practical reasons (and this was pre-Covid), we became active members of the Hampshire South Central Network (SCN - <https://u3asites.org.uk/hants-sc-network/members>) comprising fifteen u3as in the east Hampshire area. But today in the new post-Covid world of virtual meetings, we attend most of these meetings on Zoom. Whilst this does mean that we save a lot of money by not having to fly over to Southampton, the number of meetings held has increased substantially, so I don't know that we are necessarily saving any time; just talking for longer!

From time to time, I will bring you further insights into what is going over there across the water in other u3as. Meanwhile, please do contact me if you have any questions or issues that you would like me to raise with our networks or the national office.

Ian Daish
Vice Chair/External Affairs, u3a Guernsey
Email: u3aguernsey.externalaffairs@gmail.com

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST!!

The u3a Boys Breakfast group are holding a SPECIAL CHRISTMAS breakfast on Thursday 22nd December. Boys and girls, whether u3a members or not, are welcomed to come along in their best festive clothing to discuss local politics, the weather, the World Cup result, whether Father Christmas is real, or just about anything that you care to talk about, with the exception of GST! The group is hoping to beat the previous record of 17 attendees, so why not come along and join in the fun? It's a 9.30am kick off at the Sausmarez Park Cafe.





Group activities

Skittle (Wednesday) Group

This group is still open to new members and offers a very sociable activity. The group meet at 10.00 am at the skittle alley in the Hampshire Lodge, Rue Maingy. The emphasis is on having fun while enjoying a game of skittles in a friendly atmosphere. There is no admission fee to join the group but you are expected to purchase drinks from the bar - tea, coffee, hot chocolate or a cold beverage if you prefer.

Boxing Group

Please email Mary - marymcdermott2011@yahoo.co.uk, if you are interested in joining this group as places are limited. Information available on the website.

Board Games

This group is happening at a Convenor's home. Please contact : glenys.stevens@cwgsy.net if interested in finding out more about this new group.

Jane

Groups' Coordinator.

Coffee Morning

St Pierre Park Hotel

Please join us for our Coffee Mornings
Watch out for the Date and time News Flash

We look forward to seeing you all.



Boys' Breakfast

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, AS ABOVE

Please join us, as always, for a delicious, great value, cooked breakfast.

National Newsletter

Are you receiving your own personal copy of the u3a National Newsletter? If not and you would like to see it then you need to go to this link

[https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?
u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=3cc1ed5b1c&e=21dcf0fcf2](https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=3cc1ed5b1c&e=21dcf0fcf2)

A bite-sized version is also posted by Alan on our Facebook page GUERNSEY U3A.

Anyone with a suggestion how we could make being a member a better experience, please share your idea by emailing

u3aguernsey.suggestionbox@gmail.com

These will be treated in confidence and anonymised if requested before being presented to the committee for discussion.

Links to this newsletter and copies of this and the National Newsletter can be found on the u3a Guernsey website. All group activities can also be found on the u3a Guernsey website.

You can also read or download our Newsletter directly from the Documents section of our [website](#). To do this you will need to use a username and password, which are common for all members and are the same for any document that is passworded on our website. These are case sensitive and are as follows:

Username: U3aguernsey

Password: Lihounineteen

If you have any problems accessing the newsletter or any other document, please email us at u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com

You can browse all of the current Interest Groups on our website's [GROUPS PAGE](#), (click on this link to get there instantly). Also check out the [EVENTS PAGE](#) to see what's going - new events are added as soon as they have been organised.

Our website and [NEWS PAGE](#) are regularly updated with the latest information and pictures of Group activities. Please send in photos and news articles from your Group to u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com ; we would love to hear from you and

to display your efforts on our website, newsletter and Facebook pages.



[U3A Guernsey \(Closed\) Facebook Group](#)



[U3A Guernsey Website](#)
